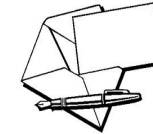




**St. John's Methodist Church
Whitchurch**

October 2017 Newsletter

Message from the Manse



Dear Friends,

Sitting in front of me on my desk at the moment is a book that I have found very useful over the last couple of years: "The Lion Storyteller Bible", by Bob Hartman. It's a collection of Bible Stories, from both Old and New Testaments, and what makes it different is that they include in the back a list of suggestions on how to share each of these stories with a crowd. If you've been to one of the Baptisms at St. Johns then you might well have seen me using one of the stories from it!

Stories have an important role within our faith. Much of the Old Testament started off as Oral History - stories communicated from generation to generation about God's care for his people; some of the prophets used stories to make points to their audience (such as the one Nathan tells to David to show David that he has done wrong in 2 Samuel 12); Jesus used Parables extensively to say things about God's Kingdom.

We, too, have stories to tell about our faith; sometimes we call them Testimony. So the article Jim wrote for last month's Magazine is testimony - telling his story; Lucy's CD, The Journey, was telling her story in song; others may find themselves expressing their faith and their story through art, or simply through conversation. But we all have a story to share.

Sometimes we might feel hesitant, embarrassed even, about talking about our faith. But maybe telling our story, whether it's through words that are written, sung, or spoken, is a better way to think about it: less intimidating, but also in some ways more personal. What stories can we tell this month, and who are we going to tell them to?

God Bless

Rob

Flower Rota for October 2017

1st Rosamond Rawson

8th HARVEST

15th. Jane Cliffe

22nd Jean Craddock

29th May Arthan

(November 5th. Lynn Fowler)



HARVEST SUPPER

This will be on Monday 9th October at 6.30pm.

Come and enjoy a supper of Hotpot and Apple Pie and Cream, followed by singing some hymns and songs, as we end our Harvest Celebrations. The price is £6.



Please put your name on the list at the back of church if you intend to come.

Stop Press!

There will be an Art Exhibition at St. John's on 17th and 18th November. Further details to follow.

Dot Charlesworth

Pray, Think, Act Meeting – 5th September 2017

The second meeting of the 'Pray, Think, Act' group took place on 5th September. The purpose of the group is to focus on the spiritual life of the church and seek God's will for the future of St. John's. The main discussion points and actions from the meeting are summarised below:

Rob has started a monthly midweek Bible Study which began on 14th Sept.

It was agreed at the last meeting that we would seek help from the Circuit. Rob has spoken to David Priaux (Senior Circuit Steward) and there is an opportunity for David Croissant to work with us – he has been involved in mission meetings in the circuit.

It was agreed that the brief for the work David Croissant will support needs to be prayer, spirituality and mission. Rob will arrange an initial meeting with David in October or November which will form the next 'Pray, Think, Act' meeting.

It was agreed to carry out a survey with the congregation after a shortened Sunday morning service to seek the views of the whole church family – this is likely to take place in January or February.

It was agreed that a series of themed services / preaching would be extremely valuable and this was to be discussed with the Worship Committee at their next meeting at the end of September. It is envisaged that the themed preaching would run for 4-5 weeks after Christmas and before Lent starts on 18th February.

It was felt to be very encouraging that a number of people have written articles for the newsletter on "getting out of the boat" –

following the service led by Janet Lees. It was felt to be a very positive step forward for us to share together as a church family.

It was agreed to arrange a Bring & Share Lunch on Sunday 19th November after the service. It was envisaged that we might arrange one Bring & Share Lunch per quarter.

Janet Lees shared a reading from Isaiah chapter 41, verses 18-20 which was felt to be relevant to St. John's.

Jenny Marston offered to prepare a short update for the next newsletter and a report for the next Church Council meeting on 4th October.

Christian Aid Christmas Cards and Traidcraft gifts

Please come along for your morning coffee to Bargates hall on **Saturday November 4th** from 10am till 12pm. Along with Christian Aid Christmas cards and Traidcraft gifts, there will be the usual delicious homemade cakes.

You will be able to see all of the 2017 cards - including many depicting traditional Christmas story scenes. Most can be bought on the day, though orders can be taken then or before. Fairtrade gifts, wrapping paper etc, will also be on sale on the day.

Catalogues will be available on the Sundays before in the Long Room at coffee time, or at the coffee morning. Please let me know if you want to put in an order before the 4th.

Helen Trigg

Decorating the Guild Room

We spent a very busy and enjoyable fortnight during August decorating the Guild Room.

It seems a long time since the Property & Finance Meeting earlier this year when I suggested decorating the Guild Room. The idea was to spruce up our most-used room with a lick of paint, so that we could whet people's appetites as a forerunner of what could be achieved in Phase 2 of our Refurbishment plans. We formed ourselves into a decorating team, with Pete Shingler and Maurice Latham at the helm, telling everyone else what to do (!)

We applied to Whitchurch Town Council for some help and received £250 towards a new carpet. We consulted church members about the colour of the walls and carpet and eventually a consensus was reached of grey paintwork, peach walls and a mauve carpet. The curtains were sent to the cleaners and we were all ready to go!

It took us about a fortnight to do the job. But, my most lasting memory was the fun we had doing it. There was great camaraderie and I think we developed a deep friendship as we came to know each other much better. As stated before, Maurice and Pete were in charge of painting the ceiling and walls. They were the only ones with enough bottle to go up the ladders. I was certainly too afraid to use them! Brian & I seemed to be in charge of the undercoat & gloss, as well as Dot giving a hand. Vic was in charge of noticeboards. Elizabeth was in charge of the cleaning. The toilets and kitchen were given a thorough spring cleaning.

I want to thank everyone who helped in any way shape or form. I want to name Elizabeth Shingler, Brian Faulkner, Vic Trigg, Rob Langley and Dorothy Charlesworth. And to those who gave us moral support!

What shall we do next year?

JRW



Steward's Letter



Dear Friends,

We come to the time of year when nature starts it's preparation for winter by giving us a glorious bust of colour in our trees & hedge-rows. As daylight shortens we get the beautiful russets, yellows & gold's before the leaves drop off to be absorbed back into the earth to prepare for next spring.

It makes me think back & recall the wonderful sights of nature that Elizabeth & I saw on our tour of France & Spain earlier this year, especially as we drove through the grandeur of the Pyrenees down into the fertile plains of Spain, where a lot of our fruit & vegetables come from. Such ragged beauty of multi coloured rocks then the multi colours of the fruit blossom.

But we must not forget how cruel nature can be, as was shown to us by Harvey & Irma as they left a trail of destruction & took lives. Remember to pray for these people as they start to rebuild their lives. Let us appreciate what God has given us in his wonderful creation.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the small group of members who gave their time & effort to decorate the Guild Room & turn it into a fresh & inviting place to meet in fellowship & conduct the various meetings that take place to keep St John's functioning as a place of worship. Thanks also to the ladies who gave us donations towards the paint.

We shall soon be celebrating Harvest Festival & holding our Harvest Supper where we can give thanks to God for his bountiful goodness. I look forward to seeing you there.

Pete

(Letter received by David Whiteley)

Dear David,

I would like to thank you and the congregation at St. John's Methodist Church for your kind donation totalling £143.40.

The donation received will support the work of Action for Children's local project, Shropshire Activity Support, Kingsland House, Shrewsbury.

The service works with children and young people aged 4-18 years old with a recognised disability. The money kindly donated will go towards replacing old and damaged toys that they use in their play schemes and group sessions.

Very best wishes to you, and all at St. John's Methodist Church.

Yours sincerely

Nikki Booth

Area Fundraiser for North Wales and Shropshire

Spick and Spanners for October 2017



October 5th

Chris Crowther, Dot Charlesworth & Lynn Fowler

October 19th

Helen Trigg, Brenda Aumeer & Wendy Proffitt

SYNOD

I attended Synod on Saturday 9th September with our minister, Rob Weir. This was held in the Market Drayton Circuit.

The main item of the agenda was about the latest figures on membership attendance. These figures come out every 3 years. These showed another decrease, however it doesn't apply to every church, over 600 churches increased their membership. The question is, what are we doing about this?

In this next year, we will be about 50 ministers short to fulfil vacancies. Our District, Chester & Stoke, is leading the way using Supernumeraries (retired ministers) and lay people. This has worked well at Brown Knowl for the last 4 years.

We were reminded that we are a Connexional church. St. John's in particular, needs to be aware of this. The cost of running the Connexion is about £1.30 per member. The Connexion is also dipping into reserves to keep this at this sum.

Peter Barber (Chair) asked members to consider how they would spend £2 million in this District that would benefit MISSION, now there's a challenge for you!

The District has agreed to 'Plant or Reseed' 10 churches during the next 5 years.

Following on from Conference, who have asked each church to Pray & Fast, our Chair has set aside the first Friday in each month to join and encourage churches in the District in this task. Therefore, on the first Friday of each month, many in our District will be Praying and Fasting.

Perhaps another time I need to write more about Connexionalism. An update to the previous.

At the Circuit Meeting, invitations to extend the ministry of the Rev. Charlotte Lorimer, the Rev. Jennifer Matthews and the Rev. Rob Weir were given. For us, this means that Rob will remain in the circuit until 2021.

The Rev. Peter Barber is being invited to lead a time of Prayer and Fasting in this Circuit on the 5th July 2018. More on this nearer the time.

Brian Faulkner.

'Loving our neighbours' here in this country and throughout the world.

This year our Harvest service will be an all-age worship service led by Rev. Denise Harding. During the service adults and children will be invited to bring contributions of dried or tinned food to the front of the church, which will then be taken to the Whitchurch Food-bank.

All contributions of food and flowers brought to decorate the church will as usual be in the long room at the Harvest supper and donations made for these will be collected and sent to 'All we can' - the Methodist Relief and Development fund, along with the cash from the collection at the Harvest service.

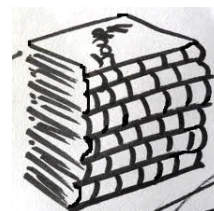
Please, if you are able, bring contributions to decorate the church as usual and also a tin or packet on Sunday.

Thank you

Helen Trigg

Book Stewards for October

1st	Gwen Reeves
8th	Nancy Millington
15th	Beryl Posniak
22nd	Sue Davies
29th	May Arthan



Action for Children.



You are invited to support St. John's Church fund raising for the Action for Children by attending a coffee morning at the Church on:

Saturday 28th October 2017 from 10am to 12 noon

As a community we have raised money for this Methodist charity over a number of years and this is our autumn fundraiser

Please support

David Whiteley

*"Listen! the wind is rising, and the air is wild with leaves,
We have had our summer evenings, now for October eves"*

- Humbert Wolfe (1885-1940) Italian-born British poet, civil servant and Jewish convert to Christianity

A glimpse of Greenbelt

(an arts, faith and justice festival)

On Friday afternoon of August 25th Bethan and I arrived at Greenbelt near Northampton for a 24-hour visit. The theme 'The Common Good' was very pertinent to the soul searching that we as a nation are going through at the moment. I would like to give you our glimpse of the festival.

We set up our tent in the camping ground and then went in search of food. As we walked in to the festival area we encountered a Christian Aid stand 'Banking for the Common Good'. The Christian Aid current campaign the 'Big Shift' is all about getting banks to stop financing coal power plants and to publish a transition plan for their organization which will help the world to meet the commitments of the 'Paris Agreement'. Banks at the moment are using our money to finance the extraction of fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas which all contribute to global warming and so threaten the lives of millions of people around the world. If we are going to build a cleaner world and prevent more damage we need to make the shift away from fossil fuels and to clean renewable energy. We signed action cards which Christian Aid then sent to the major banks.

We went on to a talk by Dave Tomlinson 'I believe God is human, it's the rest of us I'm not sure about' – an antidote to 'black and white' religion. After eating some delicious baked potatoes we finished the evening listening to 'Hardwicke Circus' a joyous rock band, and two very thoughtful solo artists – Yvonne Lyon and Genevieve.

On Saturday morning we got up early and took down our tent and Bethan went off to see the Vessel Theatre

Company's production of 'Acrojou' – a play about death and heaven, and the value of now and what we are doing with our lives, while I finished loading the car.

We met up at 10am and went to hear John Bell speak. The title of his talk was 'Rampant Heterosexuality'. He asked us to consider how many churches today are treating people who are gay and how difficult it is making it for them to feel accepted in most churches. He said that research shows that young people in America are leaving churches in droves because of the attitudes of some Christians to gay people. He spoke at length and in depth about the passages often quoted by some Christians in defence of their beliefs, placing them in time and context. He ended by reminding us that Jesus told us of God's love for everyone so how can He intend people to cause immense hurt to others by forcing them to deny their own type of sexuality in order to be part of the church as he has had to do for 30 years?

At 11am we went on to a talk entitled 'Naked Detraction', in 'The Red Tent' (like the tent set aside for menstruating women in the book 'The Red Tent' by Anita Diamant). The red tent at Greenbelt is a place where women can support each other. The speaker was Rev. Kate Bottley from 'Songs of Praise'. The talk focused on the obsession of our society with a certain type of body image which causes such a lot of heartache, and ways to move towards loving and valuing the body you are in.

After a delicious cup of coffee and a piece of cake we set off for home around 2pm as we both had other commitments that weekend. It was very short but very sweet! It was lovely to get a taste of this marvellous festival and we hope to go again, and next time for much longer.

Some of the other singers and speakers we would have liked to have heard include:

Charles Handy (now 90 years old 'Speaker on 'Thought for the Day' Radio 4) - 'The second curve – the future of Christianity'.

Martyn Joseph (Folk singer and songwriter)

Sister Teresa Forcades (one of the leading voices in the world today against the injustices of capitalism and the patriarchy of modern society and of her own church).

Simon Barrow (member of the Iona Community) 'Towards a new Heaven and a new Earth'

Clive Stafford Smith (A barrister who has defended people in Guantanamo Bay and many on Death Row in the USA)

Rev. Mark Umpleby (the Anglican Priest in Batley in Leeds where MP Jo Cox was murdered) 'The effect on the community of a bad thing turning to good'.

Kim Leadbetter (Jo Cox's sister)

Natalie Bennett (Green Party) 'Where are we re: Climate Change?'

Robert Cohon (a leading dissident Jew) 'Why the wrong kind of Jews have always been right'.

Justin Thacker (Lecturer at Cliff college) 'Global Poverty: from charity to Justice?'

This is just a small selection of the many speakers, musicians, workshops, worship styles, writers, poets, plays, crafts, workshops, seminars, comedians and story tellers that make up Greenbelt.

Helen Trigg

"There is no season when such pleasant and sunny spots may be lighted on, and produce so pleasant an effect on the feelings, as now in October."

- *Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-64) American novelist and short short writer*

A Frightening Letter

We read or watch our news, with horror mostly, and Hezekiah received frightening news in a letter from the Assyrian King Sennacherib.



Hezekiah, King of Judah, trusted in the Lord God of Israel. There was no other like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the Lord and did not cease to follow Him.

Sennacherib, King of Assyria, attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured 46 of them as he travelled from the north and threatened Hezekiah in Jerusalem, calling on him to surrender.

Sennacherib had arrived at Jerusalem's gates and sent a letter to Hezekiah threatening to put the city under siege and starve all the people to death, hoping that they would turn against Hezekiah and his Lord.

Hezekiah took this letter to the Temple and "spread it out before the Lord". Hezekiah prayed this prayer before the Lord:

"O Lord God of Israel, you are enthroned between the mighty cherubim! You alone are God of all the kingdoms of the earth. You alone created the heavens and the earth. Listen to me O Lord and see! Listen to Sennacherib's words of defiance against the Living God. Now, O Lord our God, rescue us from his power; then all the kingdoms of the earth will know that you alone, O Lord are God".

That night the Angel of the Lord went out to the Assyrian camp and killed 185,000 Assyrian Troops. When the surviving Assyrians woke up next morning, they found corpses everywhere. Then Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and returned to his own land.

Sennacherib mocked Hezekiah's trust in God (2 Kings ch. 18) - no-one mocks God and escapes. Read 2 Kings chapter 20, when Hezekiah was dying - after a time of prayer he says in v.3:

“ ‘Remember O Lord, how I have always tried to be faithful to You and do what is pleasing in your sight’. Then he broke down and wept bitterly.”

God answers his prayer and changes His mind. “I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you and 3 days from now you will get out of bed and go to the Temple of the Lord. I will add 15 years to your life, and I will rescue you and this city from the King of Assyria. I will do this to defend my honour and for the sake of my servant David.”

God our Father will not be mocked and loves to spend time in prayer with us. He always responds to our prayers - even with us who stand faithfully before Him, our requests may be granted, or they may not. As He did with Hezekiah - our prayers too, may make Him change His mind. Hezekiah experienced some astonishing answers to prayer, and so can you and I. Our Father listens and speaks to His children - read all about it in 2 Kings Chs. 18-20).

Michael Mulliner

A Totally Modern Ark

In the year 2006, the Lord came unto Noah, who was now living in England and said, “Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated, and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save two of every living thing along with a few good humans.”



He gave Noah the CAD drawings, saying, “You have six months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for forty days and forty nights.”

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard but no Ark. “Noah!” He roared; “I’m about to start the rain! Where is the Ark?”

“Forgive me Lord”, begged Noah, “but things have changed. I needed Building Regulations Approval. I’ve been arguing with the Fire Brigade about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbours claim that I should have obtained Planning Permission for “building the Ark in my garden because it is development of the site”, even though, in my view, it is a temporary structure. We had to go to appeal to the Secretary of State for a decision.

Then the Department of Transport demanded a bond to be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark’s move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us but they would hear nothing of it.

Getting the wood was another problem. All the decent trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them and we live in a Site of Special Scientific interest set up in order to protect the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls—but no go!

When I started gathering the animals, the RSPCA sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.

Then the County Council, the Environment Agency, and the Rivers Authority ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood.

I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission on how many Black, Minority and Ethnic I'm supposed to hire for my building team. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Construction Skills Certification Scheme accredited workers with Ark-building experience.

To make matters worse, Customs and Excise seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species. So forgive me Lord, but it would take at least ten years for me to finish this Ark”.

Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, “You mean you’re not going to destroy the world?”

“No”, said the Lord, “It looks like the government beat me to it”.

(Submitted by Mary Scott)

Has anyone seen the film ‘Evan Almighty’ on this topic?- Ed

Junior Church themes

Each Sunday the theme the children in Junior Church have been thinking about will be scrolling along the bottom of the screen at the end of the service! Helen Trigg

Disabled Access Project



A time to reflect on where we stand after our efforts of the Summer.

Our Talents project was hugely successful. The church seemed to enter into the spirit of all pulling together to make their £10 “grow”, resulting in a tremendous total - £9,317.82. On behalf of the church, we offer a huge vote of thanks to everyone who made this total possible. There is still a little more money to come in. We had £16,406.97 in our Disabled account before we started, meaning that the total now stands at £25,724.79.

On September 14th at the Circuit Meeting we requested help with our project and we were delighted to be awarded the sum of £70,000 towards our scheme. So, to date, the total amount of money at our disposal is £95,724.79. Wow I hear you say. However, we are not quite there yet. We are short by about £12,000.

We are fortunate to have the help of Sally Graham from the Circuit. She is going to guide us through the complicated Consents procedures as well as applying for Grants for our project. Grant Awarding Bodies are usually quite sympathetic towards projects where there are already considerable funds in place.

If we were able to give our architects an instruction before Christmas, tenders could be invited by the New Year, with a build start by Spring/Summer 2018. How good does that sound? However, we must not become complacent. This is just the start. We must think ahead to replacing the heating, as well as Phase 2, which is the refurbishment of the interior of our lovely building.

Maurice, get that red paint brush out!

JRW

PS Many thanks to all those people who supported us at the two concerts during September.

OCTOBER SERVICES AT ST JOHN'S

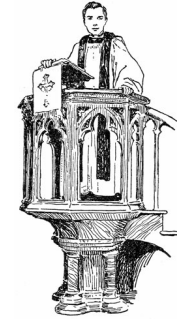
1st Elizabeth Jennings

8th Rev. Denise Harding (Harvest)

15th Rev. Rob Weir (Communion)

22nd Sue Tyson

29th Paul Jackson



TEA & COFFEE ROTA for October

1st Fiona Weir & Dorothy Faulkner

8th Hazel & Mike Nimmo

15th Margaret & Rob Hewson

22nd Sheila Latham & Dot Charlesworth

29th Wendy Proffitt & Beryl Posniak



Taxi!

The following drivers are available during October to transport you to the services. Please 'phone before 9:30am.

1st Hazel Nimmo

8th Brian Faulkner

15th Sheila Latham

22nd Jim Walwyn

29th David Whiteley



Getting out of the Boat – The Curse of the Smart Phone!

To me, being a Christian is about a personal relationship with God through Jesus, and, as with any relationship, the closeness depends on how much time and effort I'm prepared to put in. I feel God has really been challenging me about this lately.

I know I need to spend time reading the Bible and having a prayer time every day, but I do struggle sometimes. Having Beth to look after, my quiet times need to be in the evening when I have put her to bed. The real temptation for me is to get my smart phone out and scroll through news websites and Facebook – I must spend hours doing this sometimes! If only I spent the same amount of time reading the Bible and praying I would be much better off. Half the stuff I read on my phone is of little interest anyway – I think you just get sucked into something which is a bit of an addiction with no benefits whatsoever.

Don't get me wrong – kept in check these things are harmless enough, but for me it's about what I sacrifice and how I prioritise my time. I'm ashamed to say that all too often I sacrifice time with God for scrolling on my smart phone or watching TV – how ridiculous really!

As a Christian in Britain in 2017, I feel a real responsibility to pray for things which are happening in our nation, as well as around the world. I feel a great passion to learn about the state of our nation from a Christian perspective and try to understand how God is working out His purposes in Britain today. I do believe God is calling the faithful remnant of believers to pray and intercede on behalf of the nation – if we don't who will?! There are some fantastic Christian organisations and those with a well-respected, proven prophetic ministry who I really believe God has raised up for such a time as this – bringing the unchanging word of God to a changing world.

I've created a weekly prayer diary for myself with all the things I feel I need to pray about broken down into the 7 days of the week – but can I stick to it! I'm dreadful sometimes. I was reading chapter 7 from Romans recently which made me smile:

“I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing.”

Thankfully the next chapter of Romans goes on to describe life through the Spirit, which I believe is what we all need. I realise that I cannot live in obedience to God without the Holy Spirit living in me.

“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of the sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.”

I remember a much-loved member of St. John's telling me that we are like sieves – although as Christians we are filled with the Spirit of God, we need to keep on being filled on a daily basis. When I put God first and live by the Spirit, it brings true joy and satisfaction. It's me that suffers when I don't spend time with God – only I am responsible for how I spend my time.

Jenny Marston

PRAYER REQUESTS

Thank God for the many ways He continues to bless and encourage us at St John's. Give thanks that we can bring our prayers to Him, knowing that He will hear our prayers and answer them according to His great love and mercy. Pray for those known to us personally who are in any kind of need: particularly members of St John's who are ill, house-bound, in care, lonely or bereaved.



St John's

Give thanks for all those serving St John's on the various committees/Church Council and pray that, as they meet during the near future (the Church Council meets on 4th October), they will seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit

Continue to pray for the Pray-Think-Act group, that they will seek to discern where God is already at work in our church, so that we can pray and work alongside Him, instead of pursuing our own 'good ideas'

Continue to pray for our children and young people as they begin a new academic year, that they will be helped to fulfil their God-given potential

Ask God to bless the various groups that meet at St John's – Parents and Toddlers, Network, the Music Group, the Tuesday Fellowship Group, the prayer meeting – that they may continue to enrich our church family

Pray for a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit to help us become a praying church, a church that seeks God's will and purpose, a church that becomes increasingly more mission minded

Our nation

Give thanks for God's mercy and provision in sustaining our nation

Give thanks for the recent Day of Prayer for our nation. The London venue was filled to capacity (1400 people) and other

prayer meetings took place at different places around the country. The consensus was that the time is ripe for **turning** – in line with the words from 2 Chronicles 7:14

*..if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and **turn** from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

Our world

Pray for those parts of our world where there is conflict, that the Holy Spirit will enable world leaders to ‘hear’ each other and come together in a spirit of openness. Pray that truth and righteousness will prevail

Ask God to encourage and strengthen Christians who are being persecuted for their faith in Jesus Christ

Give thanks for the work of Aid Agencies and churches as they seek to help those suffering from the effects of natural disasters and pray especially for the people of Sierra Leone, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Bangladesh

Pray for wisdom for world leaders as they try to deal with the situation in North Korea

Pray for revelation, restraint and wise action for Donald Trump.
Ask God to grant him the humility to listen to wise advice

Sound System Operators for October

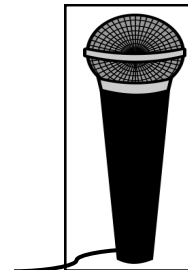
1st Wendy Proffitt

8th Mike Nimmo

15th Wendy Proffitt

22nd David Whiteley

29th Jim Walwyn



St John's Parent and Toddler Group

Toddler Group started up again on 11th September, after the summer holidays. There have been significant changes in the group, as many of our children have now moved on to Reception/Nursery classes at the Infant School, or to day care nurseries as their mums return to work after maternity leave.



Although we currently have 13 mums/grandmas/carers on our register, with 20 babies/toddlers between them, only 7 adults and 10 children have turned up for the last 2 weeks. The newly refurbished guild room has been very much appreciated by everyone – comments like “Wow!” have been heard many times!

We shall be holding our Toddler Group Harvest on Monday 9th October. This will, of necessity, be a very short, simple service, led by Rev Rob Weir. It would be lovely if some St John's members could join us – you would be very welcome to join us for tea/coffee and biscuits afterwards.

Our harvest donations are usually given to a local charity/cause. Last year we gave £60 to Zac's Miracle – a fund-raising enterprise that is hoping to raise enough money for an operation for Zac, so that his mobility is improved. It was lovely that Zac and his mum, Charlene, were able to visit us at Toddler Group to receive the cheque in person. We have not yet decided what to do with this year's harvest donations, though Hope House has been mentioned as a possibility.

Hope House is based in Oswestry and is a hospice providing palliative care, terminal nursing and respite care for life-limited babies, children and young people who are not expected to live beyond 25 years. It also offers support to their families. It would not surprise me if Hope House was decided upon.

Janet Lees

Regular Church Activities

Mondays 9:30-11:30am Parents & Toddlers (Term time)

Thursdays 7pm: Music Group Practice

1st/3rd Tuesdays at 7.30pm: Bible Study

1st/3rd Thursdays at 7:30pm - Prayer Meeting at St. John's

OCTOBER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 4th 7.30pm: Church Council

Sat. 7th 10am -12 noon: Harvest Coffee Morning

Monday 9th 6.30pm: Harvest Supper

Monday 23rd 3pm: Events Committee

Tuesday 24th 2pm: Network

Thursday 26th 7:30pm: Cafe Church

Saturday 28th 10am -12 noon: Action for Children
Coffee Morning

Fri. 3rd November 7pm: Quiz and Fish & Chip Supper

Fri/Sat 17/18th November: Art Exhibition

Sunday 10th December 12 Noon: St. John's Christmas Party

November 2017 Newsletter

Please let Mike Nimmo have all your submissions for the next Newsletter by 19th October.

This magazine costs 25p to produce. Contributions towards this expense would be gratefully received. The proceeds from advertising in this magazine will be used solely for 'Access for All' improvements to our church. Inclusion of an advertisement in this magazine does not imply an endorsement of the products or services of the advertiser by St. John's.

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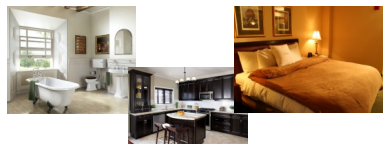
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